



Thursday, March 20, 2003
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Governor Doyle Announces Homeland Security Steps

At a press conference today at the state's Emergency Operations Center, Governor Jim Doyle and Wisconsin Homeland Security Advisor Major General Al Wilkening announced a series of action steps the state is taking to protect the people of Wisconsin.

"Now is the time for all of us to stand in appreciation of the sacrifices our troops make," Governor Doyle said. "They are leaving behind family members and loved ones, going into service to protect our country. We all pray for their success and safe return."

"This is a time for everyone to come together as One Wisconsin," Governor Doyle said. "As Governor, I will be focusing on three things: Supporting our troops, protecting our citizens, and ensuring that the people's business goes on – because we owe it to the men and women going into harms way to take care of the state they leave behind."

Last night, Governor Doyle spoke with the White House, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the National Security Council. In addition, the Governor called together his Homeland Security Council this morning.

Today the Governor announced the following action steps the state is taking:

- 1) The state has communicated this week with all 72 sheriff's departments to see if they need added resources to protect their communities.
- 2) Because the country has moved to orange alert, the Governor has asked local law enforcement agencies and directed state agencies including the State Patrol to increase the level of patrols and their vigilance in protecting critical infrastructure. Governor Doyle has also asked state and local emergency response agencies to be prepared in case of an incident.
- 3) The Governor has directed Wisconsin Emergency Management to communicate with all 72 counties and more than 500 law enforcement agencies to ensure that public safety officials are conducting a careful review of their emergency plans and that they have proper protective measures for critical infrastructure in their communities.

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4) The state is in close communications with private sector utilities including nuclear power plants to make sure that they have adequate security measures in place.

5) At the Governor's direction, Wisconsin Emergency Management has been in discussion with our neighboring states to make sure our response is consistent with theirs.

6) The Governor has directed a limited activation of the state's emergency operations center to monitor events throughout the state of Wisconsin and to coordinate our response. Governor Doyle will be receiving daily situation reports from General Wilkening.

7) The Wisconsin National Guard is available and ready to assist local law enforcement at the Governor's direction in the event that becomes necessary.